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Orozco et al.

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(54) **MAGAZINE HOLDER**

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F42B 39/02 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***F42B 39/02*** (2013.01)

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USPC 206/3, 424, 1.5, 753, 756, 722, 443, 206/488; 224/666–670, 931, 269, 268, 239, 224/245, 242; 221/8, 74
See application file for complete search history.

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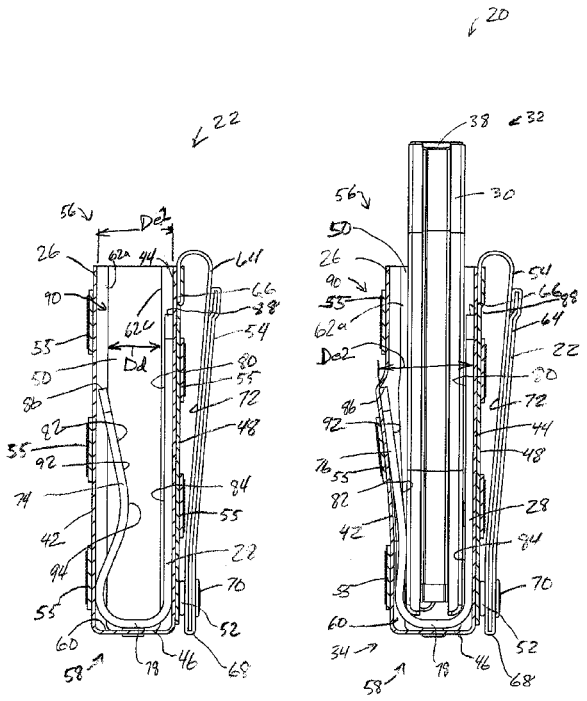
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A magazine holder is operable to hold a small arms magazine and includes a magazine pouch and a shiftable gripping element. The magazine pouch presents an elongated pouch slot operable to receive at least part of the magazine when the magazine pouch holds the magazine. The gripping element is mounted on the magazine pouch to engage the held magazine.

19 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets



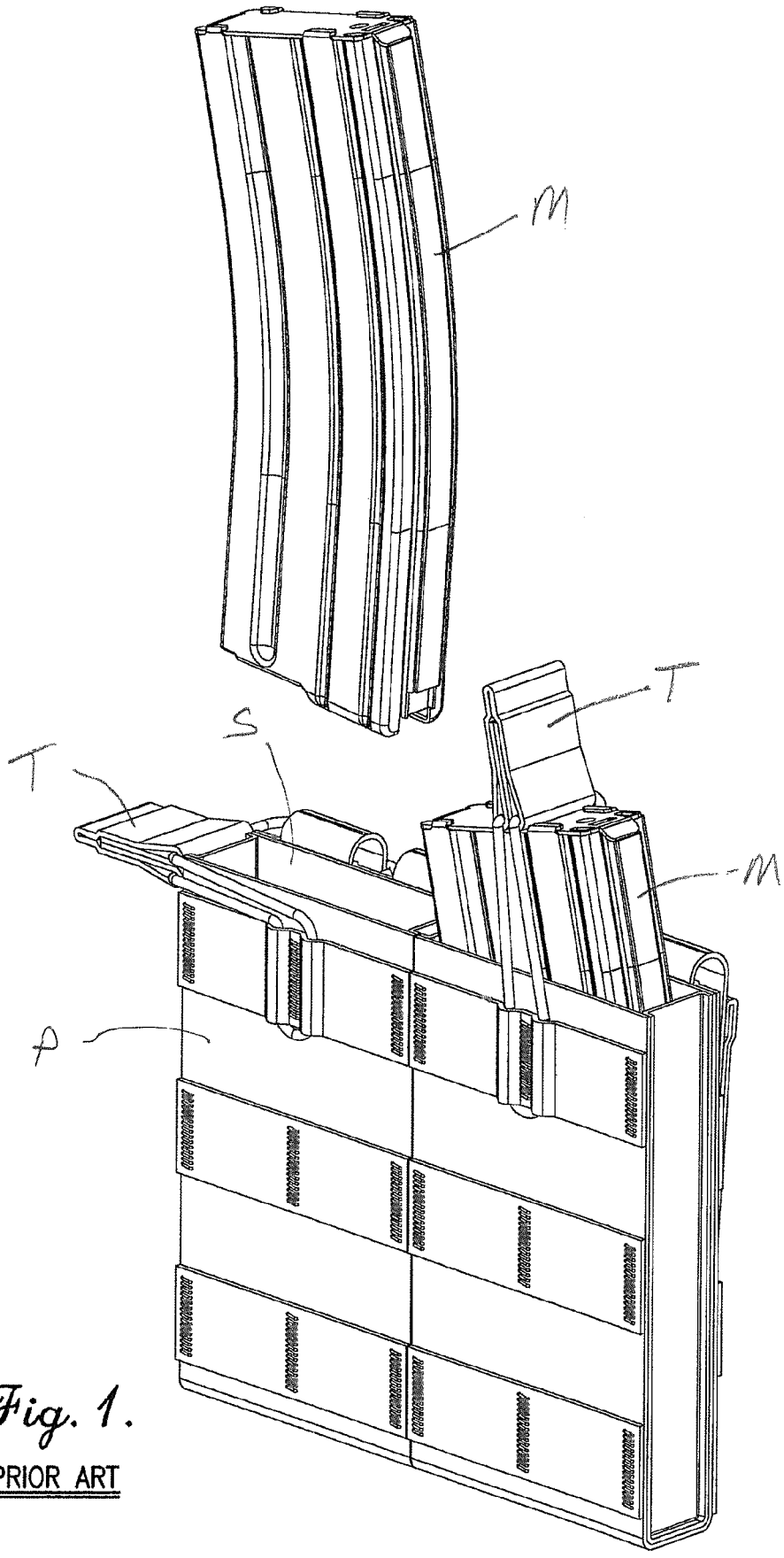


Fig. 1.
PRIOR ART

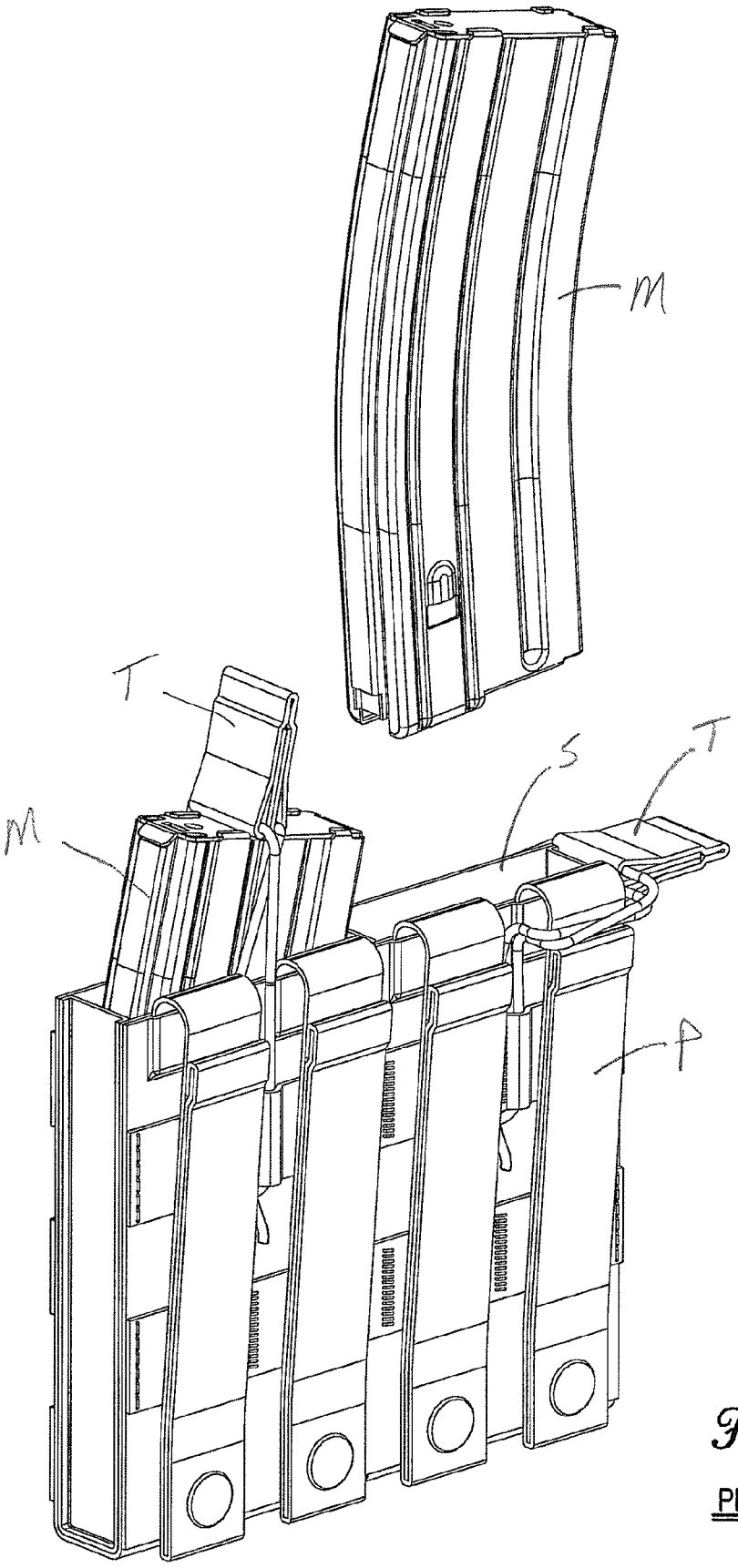


Fig. 2.
PRIOR ART

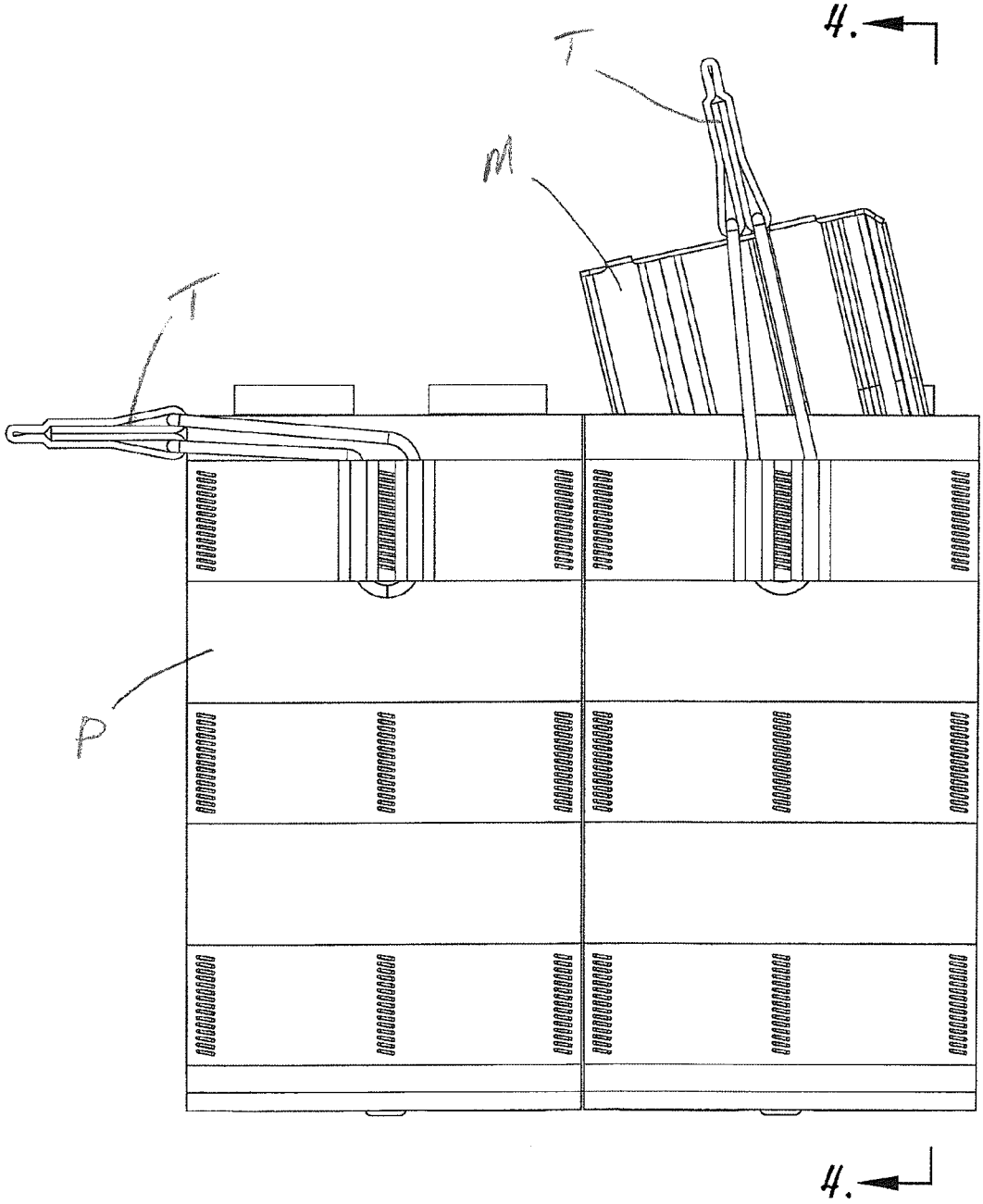


Fig. 3.

PRIOR ART

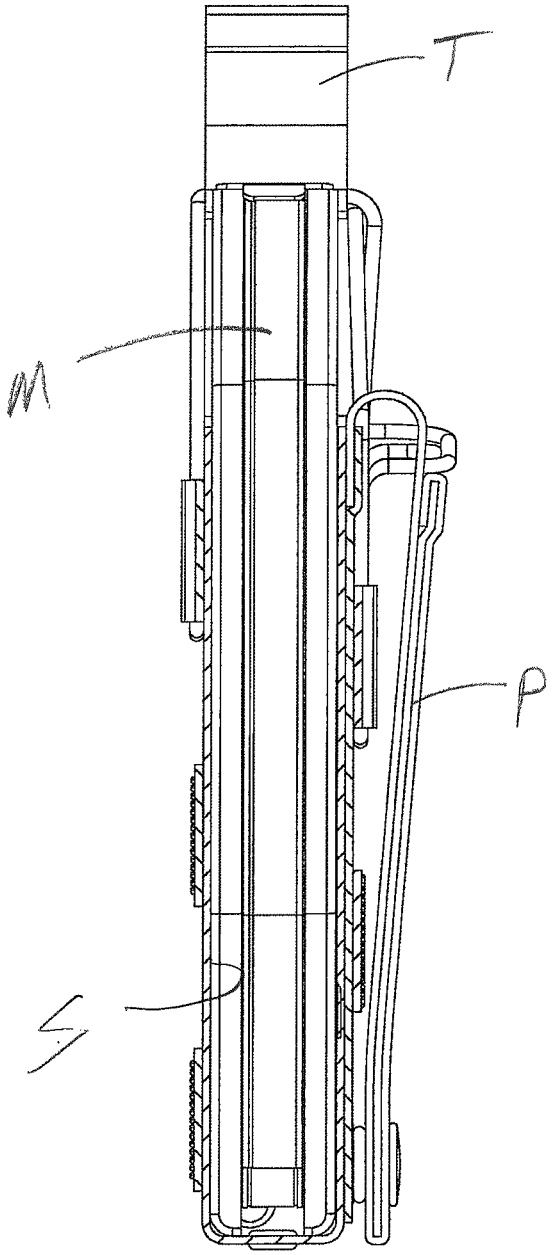


Fig. 4.

PRIOR ART

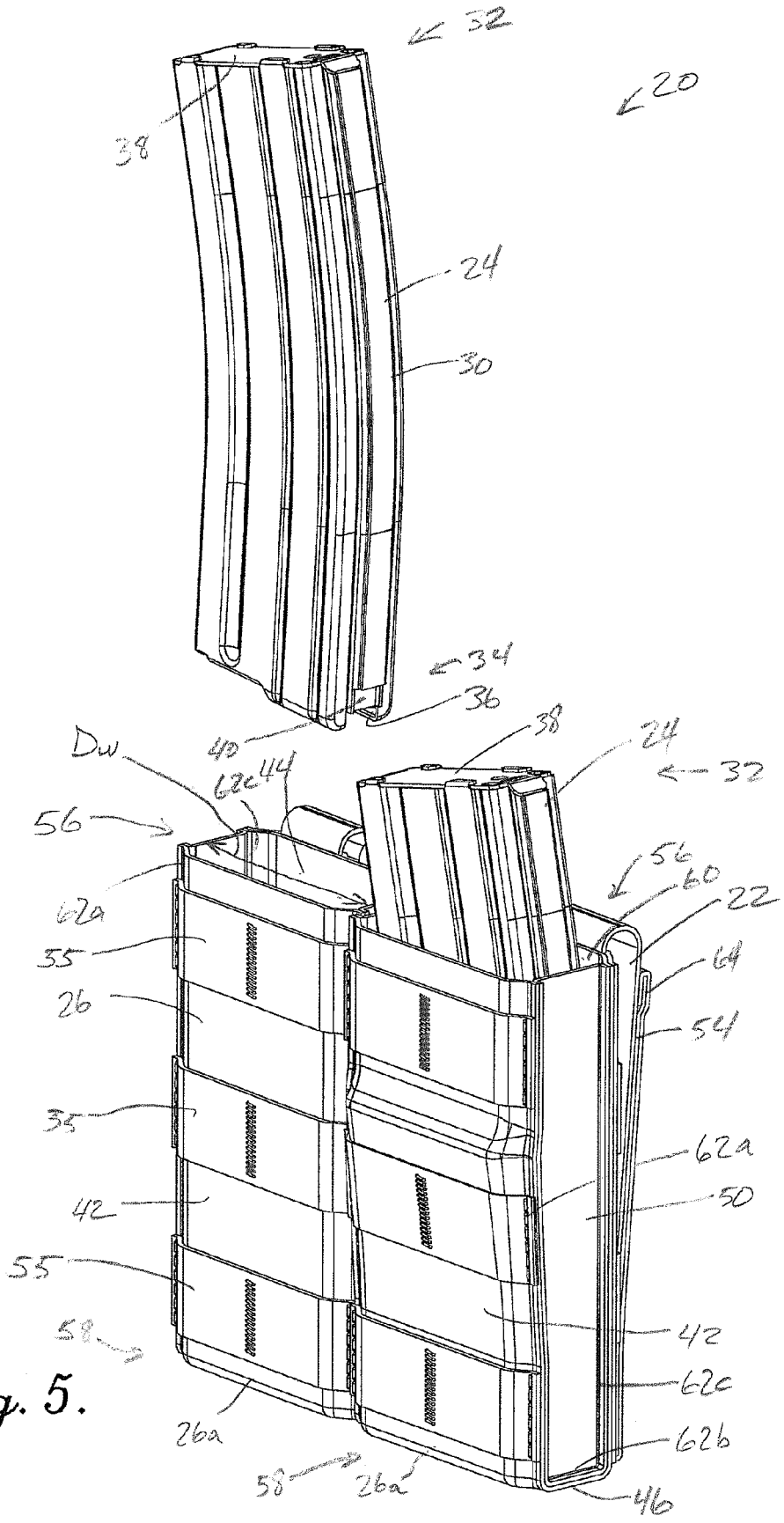

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Fig. 5.

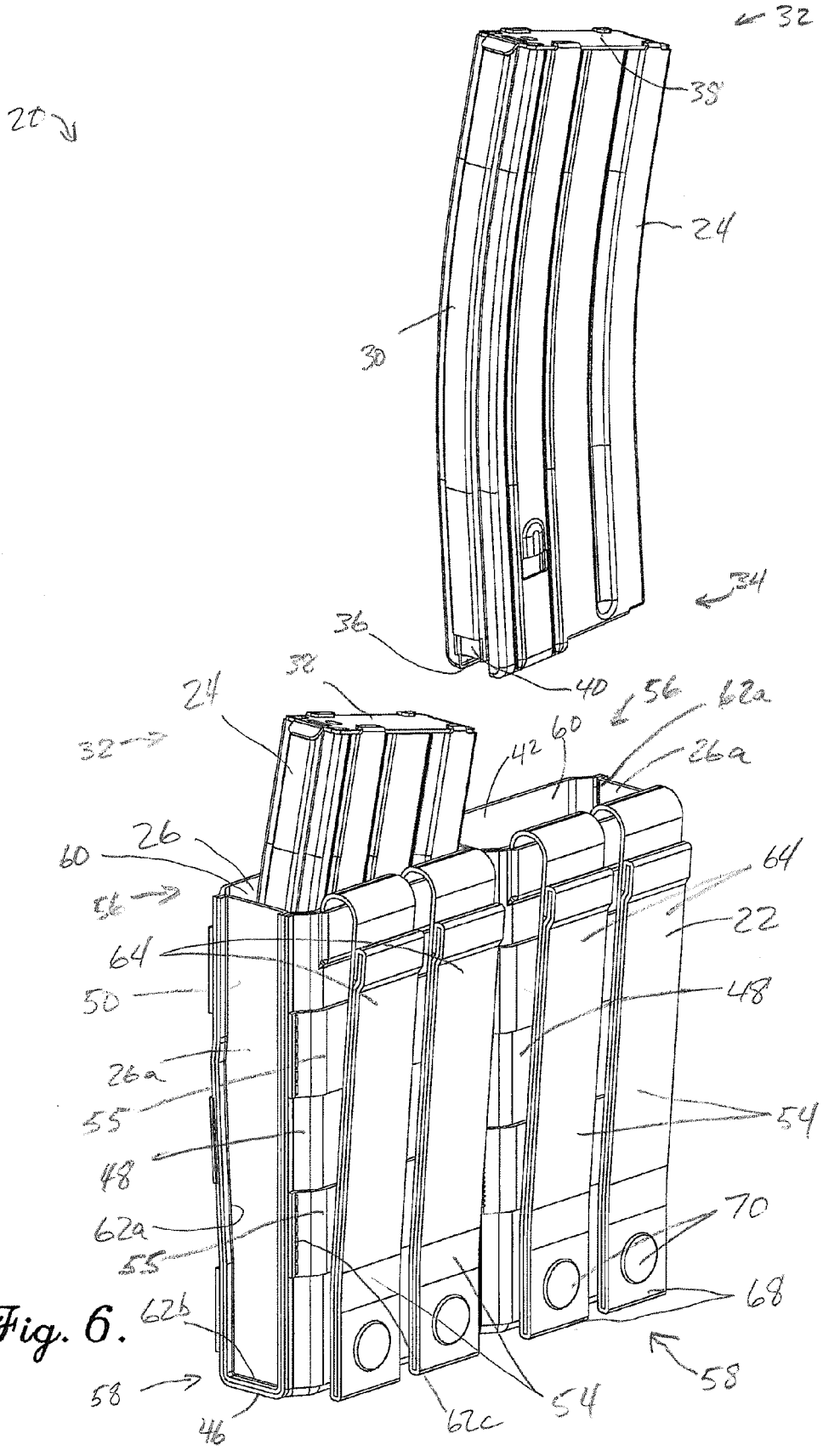
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Fig. 6.

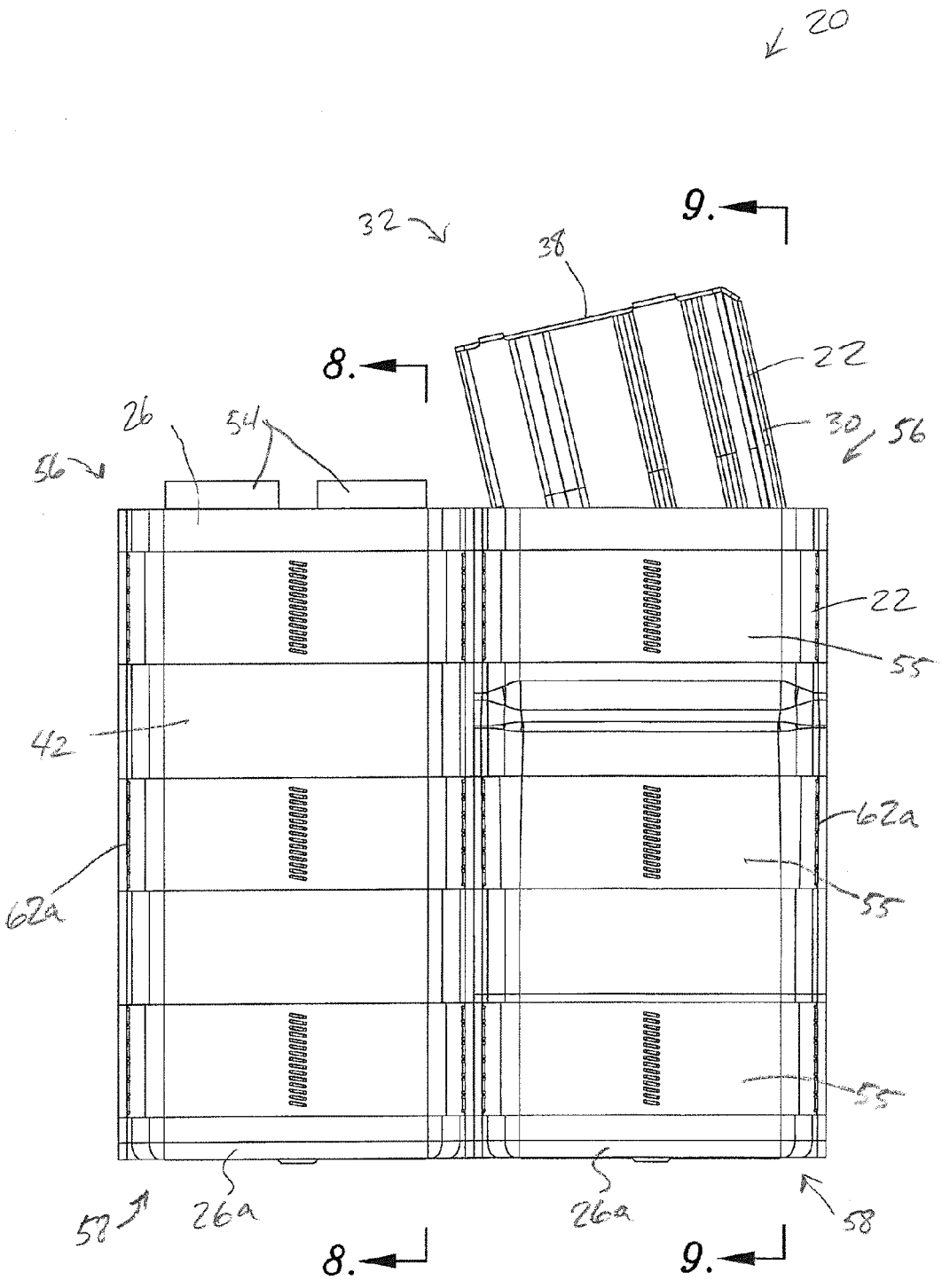

Fig. 7.

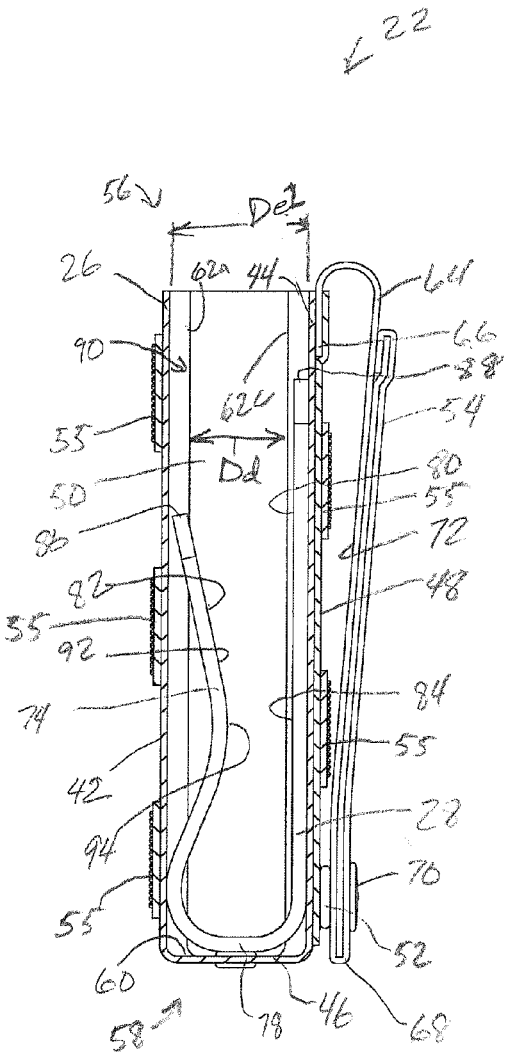
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Fig. 8.

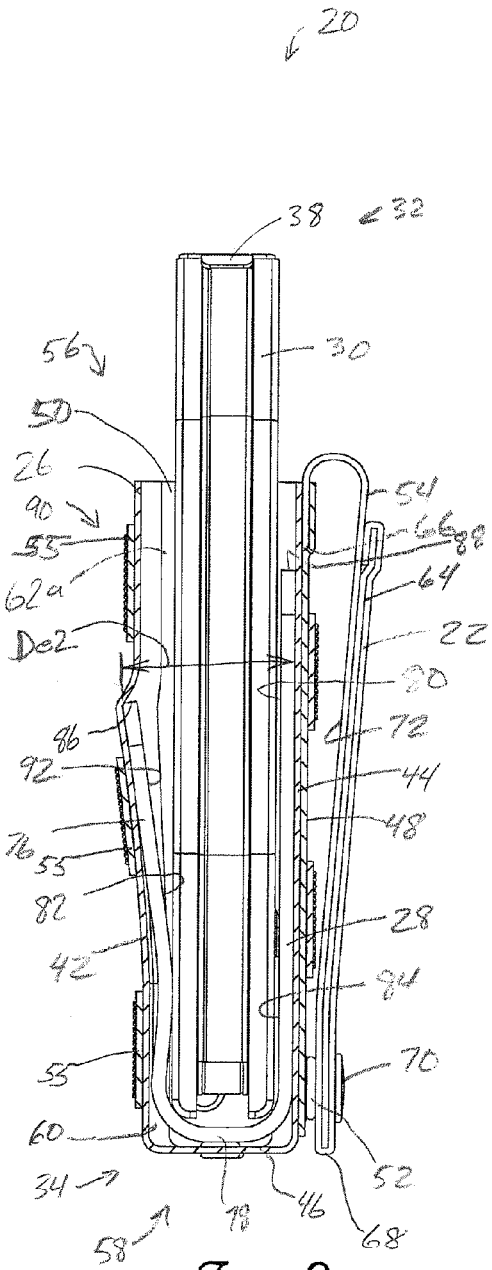
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Fig. 9.

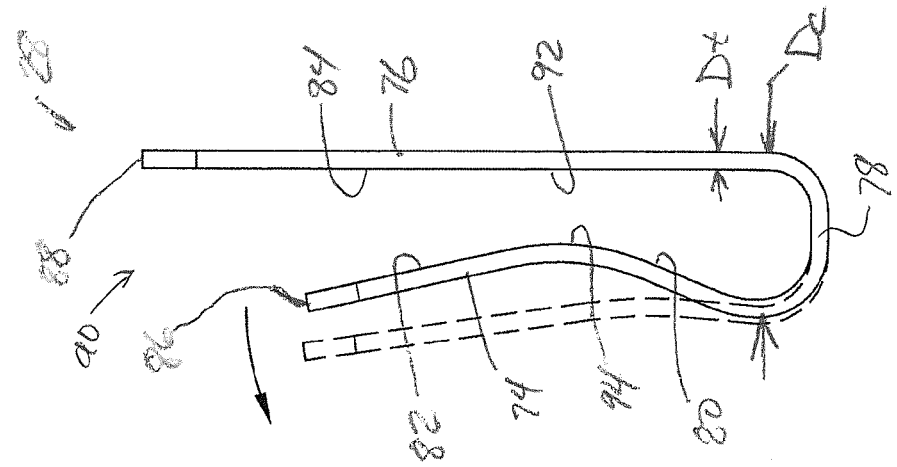

Fig. 12.

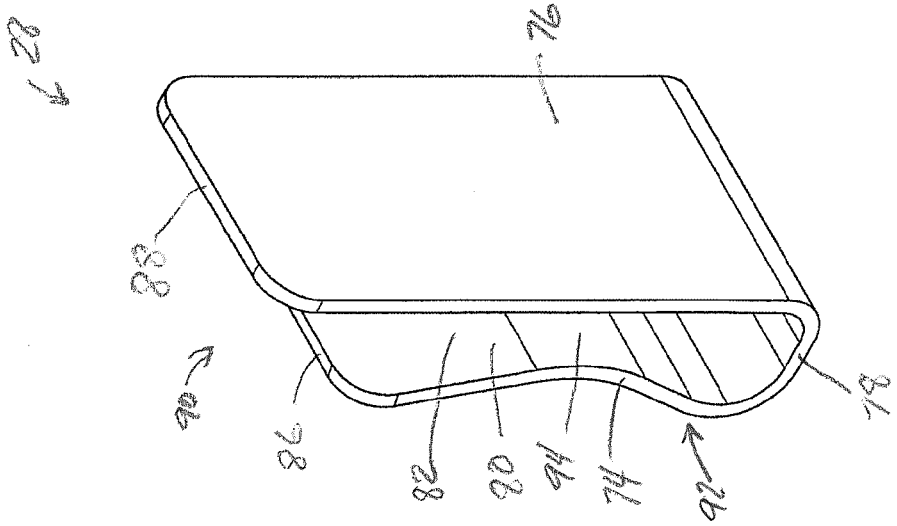

Fig. 11.

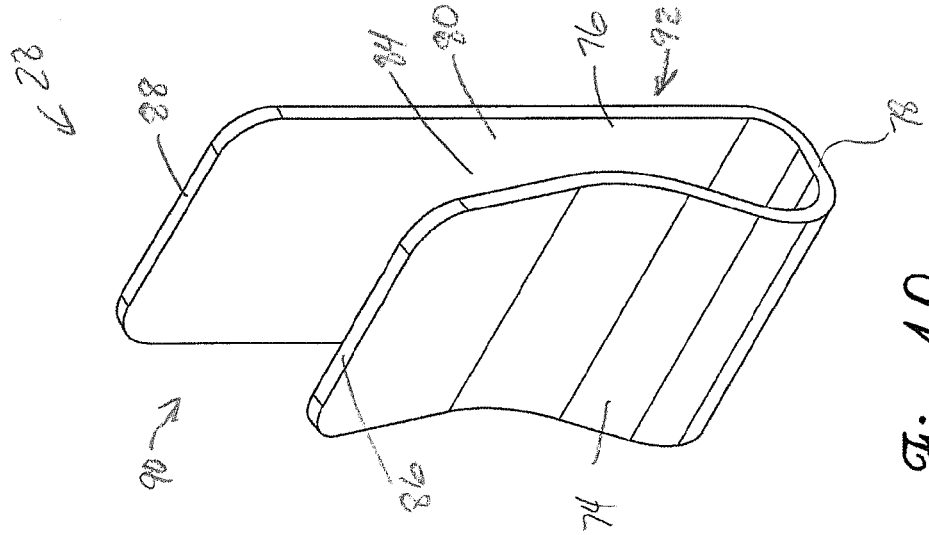

Fig. 10.

MAGAZINE HOLDER

BACKGROUND

1. Field

The present invention relates generally to a magazine holder that supports a small arms magazine. More specifically, embodiments of the present invention concern a magazine holder with a pouch and an expandable clip.

2. Discussion of Prior Art

Turning to FIGS. **1-4**, it is known in the art to carry one or more small arms magazines M in a magazine pouch P. The pouch P is typically carried by a wearer on a belt, bandolier, suspenders, girdle, an equipment pack, or similar structure. The conventional magazine pouch P includes a pair of side-by-side pouches that each present a slot S to receive a magazine M. The pouch P also includes elastic straps T that extend over the corresponding slot S to hold the magazine M in the slot S. The straps T can be flexed out of the holding position to allow removal of the magazine M.

However, the prior art magazine pouch P has various deficiencies. For instance, the elastic straps T used to hold the magazine M in the pouch P are prone to failure. Also, with the strap T removed from engagement with the magazine M, the magazine M tends to fall out of the pouch P, particularly when the wearer carries the pouch P while shifting rapidly. For instance, the magazine M tends to fall out when the wearer is rapidly running, jumping, falling, tumbling, rolling, etc.

SUMMARY

The following brief summary is provided to indicate the nature of the subject matter disclosed herein. While certain aspects of the present invention are described below, the summary is not intended to limit the scope of the present invention.

A first aspect of the present invention concerns a magazine holder operable to hold a small arms magazine. The magazine holder broadly includes a magazine pouch and a shiftable gripping element. The magazine pouch presents an elongated pouch slot operable to receive at least part of the magazine when the magazine pouch holds the magazine, with the magazine pouch being operable to extend at least partly around the held magazine. The shiftable gripping element is mounted on the magazine pouch to engage the held magazine in a holding condition. The magazine holder presents opposite gripping surfaces that extend along opposite sides of the pouch slot to contact the held magazine in the holding condition. The gripping element urges at least one of the gripping surfaces against the held magazine in the holding condition so that the gripping surfaces cooperatively grip the magazine.

This summary is provided to introduce a selection of concepts in a simplified form that are further described below in the detailed description. This summary is not intended to identify key features or essential features of the claimed subject matter, nor is it intended to be used to limit the scope of the claimed subject matter. Other aspects and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following detailed description of the embodiments and the accompanying drawing figures.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING FIGURES

Preferred embodiments of the invention are described in detail below with reference to the attached drawing figures, wherein:

FIG. **1** is a front perspective of a prior art magazine assembly including a magazine pouch and a pair of magazine operable to hold rounds of ammunition, with one of the magazines removed from the pouch and the other magazine secured in the pouch with a resilient strap;

FIG. **2** is a rear perspective of the prior art magazine assembly shown in FIG. **1**;

FIG. **3** is a front elevation of the prior art magazine assembly shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**;

FIG. **4** is a cross section of the prior art magazine assembly taken along line **4-4** in FIG. **3**;

FIG. **5** is a front perspective of a magazine assembly constructed in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, with the magazine assembly including a magazine pouch that presents a pair of pouch slots, expandable clips inserted within the pouch slots, and a pair of magazines operable to hold ammunition, where a first magazine is inserted with a first clip into a first pouch slot and a second clip is inserted into a second pouch slot but with the second magazine removed from the second pouch slot;

FIG. **6** is a rear perspective of the magazine assembly shown in FIG. **5**;

FIG. **7** is a fragmentary front elevation of the magazine assembly shown in FIGS. **5** and **6**, showing only the first magazine inserted into the magazine pouch;

FIG. **8** is a cross section of the magazine assembly taken along line **8-8** in FIG. **7**, showing the second pouch slot with a second expandable clip inserted therein and the second magazine removed, with the expandable clip shown in a relaxed condition;

FIG. **9** is a cross section of the magazine assembly taken along line **9-9** in FIG. **7**, showing the first pouch slot with the first expandable clip and the first magazine inserted therein, with the expandable clip shown in a holding condition;

FIG. **10** is a front perspective of the expandable clip shown in FIGS. **8** and **9**, with the clip including front and back fingers that meet along a lower end margin to form a hinge element;

FIG. **11** is a rear perspective of the expandable clip shown in FIGS. **8-10**; and

FIG. **12** is a side elevation of the expandable clip shown in FIGS. **8-11**, showing the front finger shiftable relative to the back finger from the relaxed condition to the holding condition.

The drawing figures do not limit the present invention to the specific embodiments disclosed and described herein. The drawings are not necessarily to scale, emphasis instead being placed upon clearly illustrating the principles of the preferred embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Turning initially to FIGS. **5** and **6**, a magazine assembly **20** is constructed in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. The magazine assembly **20** includes a magazine holder **22** and conventional magazines **24** that each hold multiple rounds of ammunition (not shown). The magazine holder **22** preferably is used by an individual to provide robust support for at least one magazine **24** while permitting efficient access to the magazine **24**. It is also within the ambit of the present invention where the magazine holder **22** is constructed to hold an alternative magazine. Furthermore, the illustrated magazine holder **22** could be constructed to securely carry a device other than a magazine. The magazine holder **22** broadly includes a magazine pouch **26** and a pair of expandable clips **28**.

Each magazine **24** is conventional and includes an elongated tubular body **30** that presents opposite ends **32**,**34** and a magazine chamber **36** operable to receive rounds of ammunition (not shown). The magazine **24** also includes an end plate **38**, a follower **40**, and an internal spring (not shown). The end plate **38** is secured to the tubular body **30** to enclose the end **32**. In the usual manner, the spring and follower **40** are slidably mounted in the chamber **36**. The spring urges the follower **40** toward the end **34** of tubular body **30**. In this manner, rounds within the chamber **36** are urged toward the end **34** by the spring and follower **40**. Again, the principles of the present invention are applicable where the magazine **24** has an alternative configuration.

Turning to FIGS. **5-9**, the magazine pouch **26** preferably includes an elongated pouch wall structure that defines front and back panels **42**,**44** integrally formed with a bottom panel **46**. The magazine pouch **26** also preferably includes a back reinforcement panel **48**, a pair of side panels **50**, snap connectors **52**, securement loops **54**, and lateral reinforcement straps **55**.

Each of the side panels **50** also preferably comprises an elongated wall structure. The side panels **50** are attached to respective side margins of the panels **42**,**44**,**46**,**48**. Each set of panels **42**,**44**,**46**,**48**,**50** cooperatively form one of a pair of interconnected side-by-side pouches **26***a*. The panels **42**,**44**, **46**,**48**,**50** also cooperatively form open and closed ends **56**,**58** of the respective pouch **26***a* and a pouch slot **60** that extends between the open and closed ends **56**,**58**.

The illustrated panels **42**,**44**,**46**,**48**,**50** are preferably formed of a resilient fabric material that includes a synthetic resin. However, the principles of the present invention are applicable where the panels **42**,**44**,**46**,**48**,**50** have an alternative material construction, such as a continuous wall. The panels **42**,**44**,**46**,**48** are preferably attached to the side panels **50** along seams **62***a,b,c* where the panels **42**,**44**,**46**,**48**,**50** are sewn together, although the panels **42**,**44**,**46**,**48**,**50** could be alternatively interconnected. Thus, the panels **42**,**44**,**46**,**48**,**50** cooperatively provide a pouch arrangement that is flexible. The panels cooperatively form a pocket that extends continuously and endlessly around each pouch slot **60**. However, it is within the scope of the present invention where the panels present one or more openings spaced between the open and closed ends **56**,**58**, where the one or more openings permits access to the pouch slot **60**.

The snap connectors **52** are preferably sewn and thereby secured to the panels **44**,**48** (see FIGS. **8** and **9**). As will be discussed, the connectors **52** are removably attached to connectors of the loops **54**.

Again, the illustrated magazine pouch **26** preferably forms a pair of interconnected side-by-side pouches **26***a* that each present one of the pouch slots **60**. However, the magazine pouch **26** could also form a single pouch **26***a* or more than two pouches **26***a* arranged side-by-side without departing from the scope of the present invention.

The illustrated pouch slot **60** preferably defines a slot depth dimension Dd (see FIG. **8**) and a slot width dimension Dw (see FIG. **5**). The slot depth dimension Dd generally coincides with the distance between the seams **62***a,c* when the clip **28** is removed from the pouch slot **60**. As will be shown, the clip **28** preferably serves to expand the magazine pouch **26** so as to increase the slot depth dimension Dd when the clip **28** is inserted into the pouch slot **60**.

Turning to FIGS. **8** and **9**, the loops **54** each include an elongated strap **64** presenting opposite ends **66**,**68** and a snap connector **70** mounted adjacent to end **68** of the strap **64**. The other end **66** of the strap **64** is sewn between the back panel **44** and the back reinforcement panel **48**. The strap **64** is attached so that the snap connector **70** can be removably attached to corresponding snap connector **52**, with the loops **54** and panel **48** cooperatively defining loop openings **72**.

In the usual manner, the loops **54** permit attachment of the magazine pouch **26** to the user in a number of configurations. For instance, the magazine pouch **26** can be worn on a belt, a bandolier, suspenders, a girdle, or another item that is fed through the loop openings **72** to support the magazine pouch **26**. However, it will be appreciated that the magazine pouch **26** could have a feature other than loops **54** to mount the magazine pouch **26**.

Turning to FIGS. **10-12**, the expandable clip **28** preferably cooperates with the magazine pouch **26** to secure the magazine **24** in the pouch slot **60**. The clip **28** is preferably unitary and includes front and back fingers **74**,**76** that meet along a lower end margin to form a hinge element **78**. The fingers **74**,**76** cooperatively define a clip slot **80** that extends laterally between opposed front and back gripping surfaces **82**,**84**. The fingers **74**,**76** also present endmost edges **86**,**88** that define a top opening **90** in communication with the clip slot **80**. The fingers **74**,**76** further define side openings **92** that communicate with the clip slot **80**. The gripping surfaces **82**,**84** are preferably spaced apart when the clip **28** is in a relaxed condition, although the gripping surfaces **82**,**84** could contact one another in the relaxed condition. As will be discussed, the fingers **74**,**76** are shiftable away from one another from the relaxed condition into a holding condition (see FIG. **12**).

The back finger **76** preferably is formed so that the back gripping surface **84** is substantially flat. The front finger **74** preferably is formed so that the front gripping surface **82** has a generally convex shape and presents an apex **94**. However, it will appreciated that the gripping surfaces **82**,**84** could present alternative shapes without departing from the scope of the present invention. For instance, one or both of the gripping surfaces **82**,**84** could include a convex shape, a concave shape, or a concavo-convex shape. As will be discussed, the gripping surfaces **82**,**84** preferably frictionally engage the magazine **24** when the magazine **24** is inserted in the clip slot **80**.

The front and back fingers **74**,**76** of the clip **28** preferably taper toward one another in a downward direction away from the endmost edges **86**,**88**. The illustrated fingers **74**,**76** taper up to apex **94** and then diverge from one another downwardly from the apex **94**.

The clip **28** is preferably formed of a unitary strip of a synthetic resin material that is formed to present the fingers **74**,**76**. However, it is within the scope of the present invention where an alternative material is used.

The illustrated clip **28** preferably includes both fingers **74**,**76**. However, it is within the scope of the present invention where the clip **28** has an alternative arrangement of fingers. For instance, the clip **28** could comprise a single finger that is attached to the magazine pouch **26** so that the pouch **26** and clip **28** provide respective ones of the opposed gripping surfaces **82**,**84**

The fingers **74**,**76** form the hinge element **78** so that the hinge element **78** flexes to permit relative shifting movement of the fingers **74**,**76**. For instance, when the magazine **24** is inserted into the clip slot **80** between the fingers **74**,**76**, the magazine **24** urges the fingers **74**,**76** from the relaxed condition to the holding condition (see FIGS. **8** and **9**). The hinge element **78** flexes to permit movement of the fingers **74**,**76** from the relaxed condition to the holding condition. In this manner, the hinge element **78** serves as a living hinge.

When the hinge element **78** is flexed in the holding condition, the hinge element **78** acts as a spring by urging the fingers **74**,**76** to return toward the relaxed condition. As a

result, the hinge element **78** operates to urge the fingers **74**,**76** toward one another so that the fingers **74**,**76** cooperatively grip the magazine **24**. That is, the fingers **74**,**76** preferably apply a gripping force to the magazine **24** and frictionally retain the magazine **24**. When the magazine **24** is removed from the clip slot **80**, the hinge element **78** urges the fingers **74**,**76** to return to the relaxed condition.

It is also within the scope of the present invention where the clip **28** has an alternative hinge arrangement. While the illustrated clip **28** preferably presents a thickness dimension Dt (see FIG. **12**) that is substantially continuous along the fingers **74**,**76** and hinge element **78**, the hinge element **78** could present a laterally extending groove that forms a line of weakness between the fingers **74**,**76** so that the hinge element **78** forms a living hinge. Also the hinge element **78** could be formed by an alternative spring that permits flexing between the fingers **74**,**76** and urges the fingers **74**,**76** to return to the relaxed condition.

Alternatively, the clip **28** could include a pair of discrete mating hinge members pivotally attached to one another (e.g., with a pin) to form a pivot joint. This alternative construction could also include a discrete spring (such as a torsion spring) that interconnects the hinge members and urges the hinge members into the relaxed condition.

The expandable clip **28** is preferably slidably mounted in the pouch slot **60** so that the clip **28** can be selectively inserted and removed from the pouch slot **60**. When inserted, the hinge element **78** is preferably positioned along the bottom of the pouch **26** so that the clip slot **80** extends upwardly from the hinge element **78** and is exposed to the open end **56**. Furthermore, the gripping surfaces **82**,**84** extend along opposite sides of the pouch slot **60**.

The clip **28** preferably presents a clip depth dimension Dc (see FIG. **12**) larger than the slot depth dimension Dd when the pouch slot **60** is empty. When the clip **28** is mounted in the pouch slot **60**, the fingers **74**,**76** cooperatively expand the pouch **26** so that slot depth is enlarged to an expanded dimension De**1** (see FIG. **8**). In particular, the relative flexibility of the panels **42**,**44**,**46**,**48**,**50** and the straps **55** permits the pouch **26** to be expanded by the clip **28**. When expanded, the panels **42**,**44**,**46**,**48**,**50** and straps **55** are tensioned so as to be taut around the clip **28**. Consequently, the illustrated clip **28** is retained within the pouch slot **60** solely by frictional engagement with the panels **42**,**44**,**50**.

It is also within the ambit of the present invention where the illustrated magazine holder **22** has an alternative arrangement to removably secure the clip **28** within the pouch slot **60**. For instance, clip **28** and pouch **26** could each have connectors that are removably attached to each other. For some aspects of the present invention, the clip **28** could also be permanently secured within the pouch slot **60**.

Turning to FIGS. **7** and **9**, when the clip **28** is inserted into the pouch slot **60** and the magazine **24** is received between the fingers **74**,**76**, the magazine **24** shifts the fingers **74**,**76**, panels **42**,**44**,**46**,**48**,**50**, and straps **55** from the relaxed condition to the holding condition. In the holding condition, the fingers **74**,**76** further expand the pouch **26** so that slot depth Dd is further enlarged to an expanded dimension De**2** greater than expanded dimension De**1** (see FIGS. **8** and **9**). Again, the relative flexibility of the panels **42**,**44**,**46**,**48**,**50** and the straps **55** permits the pouch **26** to be further expanded by the clip **28**, with the tension in the panels **42**,**44**,**46**,**48**,**50** and straps **55** being further increased. When receiving the magazine **24** in the holding condition, the clip depth dimension Dc has a maximum finger separation depth greater than when the clip **28** is in the relaxed condition. The maximum finger separation depth is equivalent to the expanded dimension De**2** and is also greater than the slot depth dimension Dd and the expanded dimension De**1**.

The endmost edge **86** of the front finger **74** preferably frictionally engages the pouch **26** in the holding condition. Furthermore, the endmost edge **86** preferably points upwardly so that the endmost edge **86** provides greater frictional resistance to clip removal compared to frictional resistance associated with clip insertion.

The magazine **24** is preferably retained within the pouch slot **60** solely by frictional engagement with the clip **28**, but with the pouch **26** and clip **28** cooperatively providing the gripping force. As discussed above, when the magazine **24** is located between the fingers **74**,**76**, the hinge element **78** urges the fingers **74**,**76** toward one another so that the fingers **74**,**76** cooperatively grip the magazine **24**. The panels **42**,**44**,**46**,**48**,**50** and straps **55** also provide gripping force because the panels **42**,**44**,**46**,**48**,**50** and straps **55** are stretched by the clip **28** and the magazine **24**.

The expandable clip **28** is preferably inserted and supported within the pouch slot **60**. However, it is within the ambit of the present invention where the clip **28** is alternatively mounted to grip the magazine **24**. For instance, the clip **28** could be secured outside of panels **42**,**44**,**46**,**48**,**50** so that the panels **42**,**44**,**46**,**48**,**50** are received within the clip slot **80**. As a result, the panels **42**,**44** would present corresponding gripping surfaces **82**,**84**. In such a configuration, the clip **28** could be permanently attached to the magazine pouch **26** or could be removably attached thereto.

In use, the clips **28** are inserted into respective pouch slots **60** so that the hinge element **78** is located adjacent the bottom panel **46**. Each magazine **24** is then inserted into a corresponding one of the clip slots **80** so that the end **34** is positioned adjacent the hinge element **78**. The hinge element **78** flexes to permit shifting of the fingers **74**,**76** from the relaxed condition to the holding condition by magazine insertion. At the same time, the panels **42**,**44**,**46**,**48**,**50** and straps **55** expand in response to shifting of the fingers **74**,**76** into the holding condition. In this manner, the magazine pouch **26** and clip **28** cooperatively grip the held magazine **24**, with the clip **28** frictionally engaging the magazine **24** to restrict magazine removal.

The preferred forms of the invention described above are to be used as illustration only, and should not be utilized in a limiting sense in interpreting the scope of the present invention. Obvious modifications to the exemplary embodiments, as hereinabove set forth, could be readily made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of the present invention.

The inventors hereby state their intent to rely on the Doctrine of Equivalents to determine and assess the reasonably fair scope of the present invention as pertains to any apparatus not materially departing from but outside the literal scope of the invention as set forth in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A magazine holder operable to hold a small arms magazine, said magazine holder comprising:

a flexible magazine pouch presenting an elongated pouch slot operable to receive at least part of the magazine when the magazine pouch holds the magazine, with the magazine pouch being operable to extend at least partly around the held magazine and defining a slot length and a slot depth transverse to the slot length; and

a shiftable gripping device including a pair of opposite fingers, with the gripping device being slidably inserted in the pouch slot so that the fingers extend along the slot length,

said gripping device being shiftable into and out of an empty condition where the pouch does not receive the magazine, with the gripping device tensioning the pouch so that the pouch frictionally retains the gripping device in the pouch slot,

said gripping device being shiftable with the pouch to receive the held magazine in a holding condition where the slot depth is enlarged from the empty condition and tension in the pouch is increased,

said magazine holder presenting opposite gripping surfaces that extend along opposite sides of the pouch slot to contact the held magazine in the holding condition,

said fingers urging the gripping surfaces against the held magazine in the holding condition so that the gripping surfaces cooperatively grip the magazine.

2. The magazine holder as claimed in claim **1**,

said gripping device including a hinge element that interconnects the fingers and permits movement of the fingers relative to one another along a separation direction,

said hinge element permitting the fingers to be shifted between the holding condition and the empty condition,

said fingers being moved away from one another when shifted from the empty condition to the holding condition.

3. The magazine holder as claimed in claim **2**,

said hinge element including a spring that interconnects the fingers, with the hinge element urging the fingers toward the empty condition when in the holding condition.

4. The magazine holder as claimed in claim **3**,

said hinge element being integrally formed with the fingers, with the gripping device being unitary.

5. The magazine holder as claimed in claim **2**,

said pouch slot extending between an open end and a closed end of the magazine pouch,

said hinge element being positioned adjacent the closed end.

6. The magazine holder as claimed in claim **5**,

one of said fingers presenting an endmost edge and tapering toward the other one of the fingers in a direction away from the endmost edge,

said endmost edge frictionally engaging the pouch in the holding condition.

7. The magazine holder as claimed in claim **6**,

said one finger projecting toward the open end to present the endmost edge.

8. The magazine holder as claimed in claim **7**,

said endmost edge being closer to the open end than to the closed end when the hinge element engages the closed end.

9. The magazine holder as claimed in claim **2**,

said hinge element being positioned adjacent the closed end,

said fingers presenting the gripping surfaces,

said fingers cooperatively defining an elongated magazine slot therebetween.

10. The magazine holder as claimed in claim **2**,

said hinge element being positioned adjacent the closed end,

said slot depth being measured along the separation direction, with the slot depth having a relaxed slot depth dimension associated with removal of the gripping device from the pouch,

said fingers cooperatively defining a maximum finger separation dimension of the gripping device, where the maximum finger separation dimension is larger than the relaxed slot depth dimension when the gripping device is in the holding condition so that the fingers expand the pouch in the holding condition, with the pouch urging the fingers toward the empty condition.

11. The magazine holder as claimed in claim **10**,

said gripping device in the empty condition being larger than the relaxed slot depth dimension so that the fingers expand the pouch in the empty condition.

12. The magazine holder as claimed in claim **10**,

one of said fingers presenting an endmost edge and tapering toward the other one of the fingers in a direction away from the endmost edge,

said endmost edge frictionally engaging the pouch in the holding condition.

13. The magazine holder as claimed in claim **10**,

said hinge element including a spring that interconnects the fingers, with the hinge element urging the fingers toward the relaxed condition when in the holding condition.

14. The magazine holder as claimed in claim **13**,

said hinge element being integrally formed with the fingers, with the gripping device being unitary.

15. The magazine holder as claimed in claim **2**,

said pouch slot extending between an open end and a closed end of the magazine pouch,

said the hinge element being positioned adjacent the closed end,

said fingers cooperatively defining an elongated magazine slot therebetween,

said fingers cooperatively defining side openings that communicate with the magazine slot so that the magazine can extend laterally into and out of the magazine slot.

16. The magazine holder as claimed in claim **15**,

said pouch slot defining a minimum lateral slot dimension measured transverse to the separation direction,

said gripping device presenting a maximum lateral grip dimension less than the minimum lateral slot dimension.

17. The magazine holder as claimed in claim **2**,

said hinge element being positioned adjacent the closed end,

one of said fingers presenting an endmost edge that frictionally engages the pouch in the holding condition to restrict sliding removal of the gripping device from the pouch.

18. The magazine holder as claimed in claim **17**,

said magazine pouch including an upright panel that extends along and at least partly defines the pouch slot, with the pouch slot extending between an open end and a closed end of the magazine pouch,

said magazine pouch further including a lateral reinforcement strap engaging the panel,

said endmost edge engaging the panel below the lateral reinforcement strap.

19. The magazine holder as claimed in claim **18**,

said one finger presenting a curved shape, with the other one of the fingers presenting a substantially flat shape.

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